GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:639
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Caste Based Discrimination
Chaudhury Shri Jitendra

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed major concerns related to cast based discrimination and resultant student or teacher facing harassment in the universities in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof, State/ University-wise during the last three years and the current year; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)
(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has intimated that it has compiled information on cases related to caste discrimination in Universities only for the year 2015-16. As per the information provided by UGC, 102 and 40 complaints, respectively, on Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) caste based discrimination have been received by it from various Universities. Statements showing State-wise and University-wise SC and ST related caste discrimination complaints received and settled during the year 2015-16 are at Annexure-I and II, respectively.
(c) : The Government of India and University Grants Commission (UGC) are committed to ensure social equity in all academic institutions in the country. UGC is continuously advocating prevention of any sort of caste based discrimination in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulation 2012 has been notified on 19th January, 2013 to ensure a level playing field for all students in respect of entitlement and opportunity for enjoyment of all legitimate rights in HEIs. This notification, inter-alia, prescribes measures for safeguarding the interest of the students without any prejudice to their caste, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, gender, and disability and for eliminating discrimination against or harassment of any student in all forms in HEIs.
Further, UGC has issued circulars to all the Universities/Deemed to be Universities to take the following actions so as to ensure social equity and inclusion in all academic institutions:
i) The official faculty member to be desisted from any act of discrimination against SC and ST students on the ground of their social origin.
ii) The university/institution/college to dedicate a page on their website to lodge any such complaints of caste discrimination and to place a complaint register in the Registrar's/Principal's office for appropriate action.
iii) Universities/colleges to ensure that no official/faculty member is involved in any activity leading to caste discrimination.
iv) Strong and prompt actions to be taken against erring official/faculty member who indulges any kind of discriminations against any community or category of students.
v) Universities/institutions to advise their officials/faculty members that they should be more sensitive while dealing with such incidents of caste discrimination.